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LETTER DATED 14 JULY 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to refer to Security Council resolutions 802 (1993) and 847 (1993). I have met with my Special Representative, Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, and have come to the conclusion that developments at the Maslenica bridge and the Zemunik airport deserve the urgent attention of the Council.

In a letter dated 13 July, the National Security Director of the Government of Croatia, Mr. Hrvoje Sarinić, informed the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Jean Cot, of his Government's intention to reopen the Maslenica bridge and the Zemunik airport on 18 July 1993. In this context, he requested UNPROFOR to take all necessary measures to "ensure that the event will pass without incident".

The local Serb authorities and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have made it clear to UNPROFOR that they do not consider the planned event to be in conformity with Security Council resolutions 802 (1993) and 847 (1993) and that they perceive the planned events as a provocation.

Following consultations with my Special Representative, I have instructed the Force Commander of UNPROFOR immediately to advise the Croatian authorities of the need for all concerned to act in a manner that would be conducive to the maintenance of peace. The Force Commander has also pointed out to Mr. Sarinić that the Security Council in its resolutions 802 (1993) and 847 (1993) has specifically called for the Croatian armed forces to withdraw from the areas concerned and that the event planned for 18 July is not in keeping with the resolutions of the Security Council.

Moreover, the Force Commander has reminded the Croatian Government that UNPROFOR had been excluded by the Croatian authorities from entering the Maslenica area and, therefore, was hardly in a position to ensure that the reopening takes place without incident.

The Council may wish to consider the danger posed by this situation and decide upon appropriate action.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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